

**April 23, 2003**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting opened** at City Hall Annex, Retirement conference room at 7:10 pm.

Conservation Commission members present were Janet McGowan, Michael Fager, John Reinhardt, Lisa Brukilacchio, and chair, Delia Kaye, Associate member Rachel Evans, and agent Anne Phelps. Also present were Thalia Gray (visitor) and Jennifer Hill, GroundworkSomerville.

Introductions were made. Thalia said she is interested in volunteering for the Commission.

Review Minutes

Minutes from March 26<sup>th</sup> were reviewed. Discussion followed.

**Vote: Motion made by DK to approve both the regular meeting minutes and the MDC Hearing minutes from March 26<sup>th</sup>, as amended. MF seconded. All in favor.**

**Budget**

Revolving Funds/Garden Fund

Anne reported that the Revolving Fund budgets she submitted in February 2002, for approval by the Bd. of Aldermen had never been set up by the auditing department. Also, Information Technology needed to provide computer access to the Revolving fund accounts on the Unix system before Anne can requisition POs for these accounts. This has caused delays in getting requisitions submitted to spend from these accounts to pay for the benches and plants for Durrell and Quincy. And, in reviewing the Auditing reports of these accounts, Anne discovered that checks/payments submitted to Treasury for deposit into these accounts had not been credited to the accounts. Anne is working with Auditing to try to get all this squared away so we can spend from these funds.

Anne reported that the garden fund shows \$2183.61, of which the CC agreed to allocate \$550 each for 3 benches, and the remainder to be spent on plants for Quincy. However, the garden fund should show a total of \$2,732.72, and Comcast has confirmed they will donate \$1,100.00 for two benches for Durrell. Therefore, Anne proposed we spend \$370 to pay for cleaning of the Community Growing Center (CGC) Port-a-Potty during calendar year 2003. Discussion followed.

**Vote: DK moved to authorize \$370 out of the garden fund as a one-time donation to the CGC for cleaning the Port-a-Potty. JR seconded. All in favor.**

Budget Planning FY04

Anne reported that she has been preparing budget scenarios for FY04, following instructions from the mayor's office, to cut expenses, based on projected state aid cuts to the City. Anne has proposed cutting some expenses from Photocopying, Subscriptions (to the Journal), and from attendance at the MACC conference. She has also proposed using some Wetland Fund \$ to maintain other services related to the aims of the WPA.

## **Old Business**

### Letter to Belmont

JR reported he had not had time to write the letter. He offered to let someone else do it. The CC agreed to wait until JR can get to it. JR also reported on his attendance at a "flood meeting" among representatives of Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge (Somerville was not invited because it does not get flooded by Alewife Brook). There will be an upcoming meeting regarding what water quality designation will be given Alewife Brook and Mystic River when the data is in from the water quality tests performed under the CSO-variance.

### MDC Mitigation for flood storage loss

New information and calculations by Mark Maclean at MDC related to compensatory flood storage area was distributed. Anne said removal of the mounds is probably the easiest way to meet the requirements. The CC agreed that Anne could work with Mark to approve his plan so he can proceed with the work, and that, once a plan is accepted, Mark does not need to wait two weeks before he can resume work.

### MWRA Enforcement Order

As follow-up to the enforcement order, we should be sure to review the seed mix proposed for site restoration. The material provided by RizoAssociates does not list the mix.

### 319 Update

Anne reported that she is still working on the QAPP, and that DPW has signed a contract with Green, International to do design work and recommend the most appropriate BMP for the site.

## **New Business**

### Urban Forestry Forum (June 4<sup>th</sup>)

Jennifer Hill reported that GroundworkSomerville (GWS) was awarded a state urban forestry planning grant to research the value of urban forestry and how street trees are managed in the city. This grant must be spent by September, 2003, and part of it will be used to organize the Urban Forestry Forum **now scheduled for June 2** at the Somerville Library, from 6-8 pm. It is hoped that volunteers to care for trees will step up during/as a result of the forum, and a report on How Trees are Managed in Somerville will be prepared.

Because Somerville is a Tree City USA, it is required to report expenditure per capita on trees, publish a proclamation for Arbor Day, and have a tree committee. The tree committee consists of Ron O'Meara, OHCD tree person, Richard Scully (DPW Tree Warden & Highway Department), and George Ackerson, part-time city arborist.

Some discussion of tree-planting in Somerville followed. Jenn Hill asked for a CC member to attend the forum. Delia volunteered to attend and participate in a charette Saturday, June 28 from 10 to 3 pm about the area around the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse. Jennifer also reported that Jennifer Capuano (a former CC member) had been hired by GWS to help with school gardens.

#### Vegetation Control/Management Plans?

Last year when Anne received the yearly operating plans (YOPs) for the railroads' vegetation management plans, the CC said Anne could just file them. The CC asked that Anne check with each organization filing a new YOP and find out what year of the 5-year plan each has reached, so the CC knows approximately when they will be filing new 5-year plans.

#### **Committees**

Durrell- Anne showed the new sign (Durrell is Coming!), and said it seemed best to put it up with no fanfare, and have a Grand Opening later in the year.

Hansen- Michael wants to schedule a new meeting for Hansen (Wed., 7 May), and is also looking for an intern or someone to help with the development of the garden.

Glen Garden at Capuano School- Anne said she and Lisa B. have prepared a flyer and are getting it translated into several languages to inform the community about the replacement garden. They will try to schedule a meeting or two this summer/fall and a bulb/perennial planting after the school opens. Anyone is welcome to help.

#### Quincy Street Park

A clean-up day is planned for 1-4pm, April 26<sup>th</sup>, and some employees of Timberland are coming to help clean up the lot. There was some discussion about a rain date. Anne reported that Richard Scully said he can take down the marked trees on the lot, but has not said exactly when he can get to it. LB reported that the Community Growing Center has trees available that could be transplanted to the new park.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Phelps, Agent